

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON  
Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

A special meeting of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 9:00 a.m. at Casa de San Pedro Bed & Breakfast, 8933 S. Yell Lane, Hereford, 85616

Present: Patrick G. Call, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Richard R. Searle, Member

Staff Present: Michael J. Ortega, County Administrator  
Jim Vlahovich, Deputy County Administrator  
Arlethe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board

Chairman Call called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING**

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***ACTION***

**Board of Supervisors**

**1. Discussion and direction regarding:**

**Accomplishments  
Strategic Plan - update  
Review of Leadership Training Program  
Budget Overview  
Development of 5 year Capital Improvement Plan  
Human Resources Compensation Plan  
Administrative Priorities  
Structural Changes in County Organization**

Mr. Michael Ortega, County Administrator, gave an overview of the topics he would be covering during the day and added that he wanted to focus on a transition plan for the new county administrator, budget information, and short term and long term goals. He noted that the Public Safety Retirement System (PSRS) is of concern and he is looking at different options, which he will discuss to address the concern.

Chairman Call asked about the options for addressing the PSRS.

Mr. Ortega stated that he was looking at the way payments are made to the PSRS to keep costs low and keep liabilities at a minimum over the years the County pays into the system. He noted that hiring entry level deputies is also recommended as well as looking at overtime

and grants received for deputy support to other agencies.

Supervisor Searle suggested looking at ways to restructure public safety to save the County money while keeping citizens safe.

Mr. Ortega said that another issue he wanted to address was a hiring freeze at the Sheriff's Office. He noted that deputies/detention officers had been held harmless since the economic recession and said the County could no longer afford to do this. He said he would also work with the County Attorney's Office to look over the PSRS contract and see what options were available.

Vice-Chairman English suggested limiting overtime and hours spent on grants like Stone Garden.

Chairman Call asked for a list of overtime earned by deputies over the last four months.

Mr. Ortega stated that the Board can limit overtime deputies earn and grants that allow deputies to support other agencies.

Vice-Chairman English said she wanted a report of deputy activity while they are on overtime for grants like Stone Garden.

Mr. Ortega went over other big projects, like the microwave/network refresh in the Information Technology (IT) Department and the jail expansion by the Facilities Department.

Mr. Vlahovich noted that Mr. Tyson Mock, IT Department Director, was working on hiring a deputy director to address personnel issues and assist Mr. Mock in project management.

Mr. Ortega said that department director evaluations were complete and noted some issues with some department directors that needed to be addressed, as well as compensating those department directors who were doing a good job.

Vice-Chairman English asked about the court consolidation agreement with the City of Douglas.

Mr. Ortega said that staff was working with the City of Douglas, but noted that they were having difficulty accurately noting jail costs.

Vice-Chairman English asked about the status of the Babocomari Special District.

Mr. Vlahovich gave an update on the Babocomari Special District and said that staff has kept in contact with residents and that a public meeting was scheduled for early March.

Mr. Ortega moved on to animal shelter intergovernmental agreements and noted that the only one left was the City of Willcox and he would keep the Board updated on the progress.

Supervisor Searle asked about the vehicle use policy.

Mr. Vlahovich said that the draft was done, it needed to be finalized, and then sent to large departments for review. He noted that a major change in the policy was that the enforcement would be handled by the Elected Official/Department Director instead of the Accident Risk Review Board.

Mr. Ortega listed pending projects like the update for the credit card policy to ensure meals could be purchased with credit cards and the fuel system upgrade to address aging card

readers. He planned to continue working on current projects and added that Mr. Vlahovich would continue to focus on projects like the Strategic Plan Refresh and Solid Waste System Review.

Supervisor Searle asked why operating costs in the Solid Waste System were not covered by the fees charged.

Mr. Ortega said that current fees were not covering transportation costs for bringing in trash from all the rural areas. He said staff was currently looking at different ways to address high transportation costs.

Chairman Call asked if transportation costs could be addressed by building a landfill on the eastern part of the County.

Mr. Ortega said that building another landfill was a possibility, but the County would have to be in compliance with requirements set forth by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

Vice-Chairman English suggested that staff research options on where to store concrete and other things that do not go in the landfill.

Chairman Call said that staff should also begin the conversation with all the cities to address transportation costs and partner in possible solutions.

Mr. Ortega said that the County could look at partnering with Huachuca City to use their landfill, but the County would then have to be responsible for that landfill's liability.

Mr. Vlahovich stated that staff was also going to be reinstating the Business Friendly Task Force to address small business concerns countywide.

Mr. Ortega went over long term priorities and showed the Board information on the upcoming budget cycle. He also proposed several ideas on how the County could partner with the cities to take advantage of resources and save money.

Supervisor Searle suggested sharing law enforcement with the cities.

Chairman Call said that the joint communications task force would help with partnering in the future.

Vice-Chairman English asked about the status of using the basement in Douglas as a regional evidence storage center.

Mr. Ortega said he would look into the costs of getting the HVAC system fixed in order to use the basement in Douglas.

Supervisor Searle was concerned over the budget situation and asked about the hiring freeze suggested by County Administration.

Mr. Ortega said that if a hard hiring freeze was implemented County Administration could review special cases. He stated that he would be holding a Budget Work Session with the Board to discuss options. He also listed several options for reorganizing County Administration and duties in the Board of Supervisors' Office.

Chairman Call asked staff to put together more information on the organizational changes and to send him a list of the members of the Business Friendly Task Force.

Vice-Chairman English asked about the compensation plan.

Mr. Ortega gave the board a handout with the schedule of the compensation plan for employees.

Chairman Call adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Patrick G. Call, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Arlathe G. Rios, Clerk of the Board